THE Little Review; OR, AN Inquiſition of Scandal;

Conſiſting in *Anſwers* of *Queſtions* and *Doubts*, *Remarks*, *Obſervation* and *Reflection*.

Wednesday, June 13. 1705.

Gentlemen,

IN the Flying-Poſt *you have an Account of the Barbarous Murther of a Man near* Sheerneſs Fort, *by a Soldier. Now, as the Author of that Story does not give any Account of the Ground, or Reaſon of ſo much Malice in the Perſon who hir'd the Man, ſo we deſire you will, if poſſible, inform us what the occaſion muſt be; and whether you think it be tolerable to believe that this was done on a grudge againſt the Man for a Party Caſe, referring to the laſt Election, which Rumour is over the Country.*

The Society taking this Caſe into Conſideration, Order'd the Story to be read out of the *Flying-Poſt*, as follows;

' One *Michael Mc Clellen*, who liv'd in *Queenborrow*, in the Iſle of *Sheepy* in *Kent*, being very active at the late Election there, in behalf of Sir *John Jennings*, and expreſſing much Zeal againſt the *Tackers*, of whom he had a Liſt, which he ſhew'd to ſeveral People. He went on the 24 of *May* laſt, to the Garriſon of *Sheerneſs*, about his Buſineſs, and as he return'd to *Queenborough*, about 8 at Night was Murder'd by *Joſeph Dalton*, a Soldier of the ſaid Garriſon, in the ſight of *Joſeph Bates* and *Francis Witherhead*, two other Soldiers of the ſame, who have ſince confeſs'd it upon Oath; and *Dalton* himſelf being apprehended, has confeſs'd it; and that Major *George Winſly*, of the ſaid Fort, hir'd him for half a Crown to Aſſault the ſaid *Mc Clellan*, furniſh'd him for that end with a Cudgel, having a Knob at the head of it, ordered him to put on a Dimmitte Frock, that he might not be known to be a Soldier, and paid him his Half-Crown when he came back. He left *Mc Clellan* dead on the ſpot, having given him five Mortal Wounds, and tore one of his Legs with his Club, in a Barbarous manner. The Coroner's Inqueſt have brought in the Major and *Dalton* both guilty of premeditated wilful Murder, and they are committed for it, in Order to a Tryal.

Upon the whole, They concluded this was a horrible Murther, but that it has ſomething peculiar in it alſo, for which it requires a moſt juſt Reſentment from the Engliſh Nation; and that is the Practice of hiring Men to Beat and Murther their Enemy.

Foreign Nations are indeed Practiſers of this moſt Cowardly, Villainous way of Revenge; and for this we have even thoſe Nations in a juſt Deteſtation; but in *England* 'tis a Practice very rarely attempted, and if ever, meets with a due abhorrence from the whole Nation.

We have been told, lately indeed, of a Certain Great Man, who, as they ſay, ſuffered ſome Scandal on ſuch an Account; but without doubt it is a Practice ſo Barbarous, that no Engliſhmen can be, we hope, brought to Practiſe; and therefore, whatever is ſuggeſted, the Society are loth to determine, that the beginning of this black Story, ſhould be run back to any ſuch Cauſe.

This Honeſt Man, as we are inform'd, was a great Stickler againſt the late Governour of *Sheerneſs*, in the Election for Members of Parliament for *Queenborough*, and in which, Collonel *Crawford* loſt it; but to infer from thence, that the Collonel has been any way concern'd in this Barbarous Action, would be a Cenſure too ſevere, and what we dare not come up to.

The Relation ſays the Fort Major hir'd this Soldier to Aſſault the Honeſt Townſman;—— or as the Story ſays, he beat him. The Society ſhall always be wary how they prompt Juſtice upon any Man; if the Fort-Major hir'd the Man to beat him with no Deſign, to do any thing of hurt to his Life, let the Law determine it; without doubt, his exceeding the Commiſſion will coſt him dear; but for the Major, we leave him to the Law.

But it will remain a Queſtion, who hir'd the Fort Major, for as we are inform'd he had no Perſonal Malice againſt the Man; and if this ſhould make any unhappy diſcovery, let the Guilty look to it; hiring of Murtherers and Aſſaſſines is a Terrible Practice, but the ill Conſequences will be doubled, if it ſhould happen to be introduc'd into Party Heats, ſuch as Elections, Publick Meetings, and the like; and this may admit a farther Anſwer, when a little more Truth is diſcover'd.

Gentlemen,

I Hope your New Society will proceed by the ſame Rules as the laſt, and diligently apply your ſelves to Correct the Notorious abuſes of our Prints; and you need not want ſubject in that Caſe. I deſire you will call the Author of the Gazette *before you, to tell the World how he can explain Publiſhing in one* Gazette *a double return from* Ailsbury, *and ſet down the four Members Names return'd; and in the laſt Account ſet down only two Names and a ſingle return.*

The Society are willing to ſet up for Moderation, as well as other People, and have always dealt Moderately with the Writer of the *Gazette*, but in Matter of Fact they can not be Partial: 'Tis certain there never was a Double Return made from *Ailsbury* at all; but whether it was, that ſomebody impos'd upon the *Gazetteer*, or that the Writer had a mind it ſhould be ſo, they cannot determine; and ſo concluded to give him time to make it out, or elſe he ſtands Indicted of willful ſpreading falſe News.

Whether the following Caſe be Real or Allegorick, the Society are not concern'd; but as it includes the Subſtance of ſundry other Letters, and the Reply to it may ſerve for an Anſwer to the Gentlemen concern'd in thoſe other Enquiries, the Society reſolv'd to bring it in here.

June 7. 1705.

Gentlemen,

HAving ſeen ſeveral of the Reviews *and* Supplements *to 'em, and being mightily pleas'd with the Anſwers, to Diſtreſs'd Queriſts, I'm very Ambitious of your Judgment in the following Caſe ——— I am a Batchelor between* 30 *and* 40 *Years of Age, and for ſome time have had Thoughts of Marrying, but can't well get over two Objections.*

In the firſt Place, I Queſtion the Production of ———

And in the ſecond place, If I ſhou'd be inſtrumental therein, how I ſhall defray the Charge that attends it? My Buſineſs in the World is but Mean, and with the Charge of a Family it may be as much, or more than I can do to keep in even Ballance; and I am not willing to be inſtrumental (ſuppoſing me ſo qualified) in producing a Race of Beggars; of them (I judge) there's no need of Addition. I would

would live Singly, but is it possible for me to Conquer the Propensity of Nature, which must make me Uneasie in a Single State. I would be Married, but I'm afraid of the Consequences, which cannot but have the same Effect in that State, so that whether I continue as I am, or alter my Condition, I am not like to be Happy; but of two Evils, I would Choose the least. Pray, Gentlemen, *your Serious Thoughts on this Matter, and what may be said for, or against either State, and what ought to be a Man's End in Contriving in the one, or Entring on the other; If you spent a* LittleReview *in Answer to this, it may be very serviceable to the World, and (I doubt not) very Satisfactory to*

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant.

This Gentleman, if he be any body is indeed in a doubtful Case, first he would Marry, and then he would not. Next he Questions his Capacity, and then his Continence: These Contradictions at first stumbled the Society, and the Letter had lik'd to have been thrown by unanswer'd.

But the Society having considered the Case, resolve to give a more Solid Reply, than perhaps the Querist expects; because of the usefulness it may be to others in Cases something different.

1. Sir, In Case of Impotency, if Real and Known, an Answer is short, You cannot Lawfully Marry at all; and the Question ask'd you by the Minister, *whether either of you know any Impediment why you may not be Lawfully joyn'd together*, &c. fore Closes you; your Marriage is a Cheat, and an Abuse, the first end of Matrimony being Anticipated by Nature, all the Preliminaries to it are Prohibited of Course; and this the Society are serious in, to prevent Mutual abuses of that kind, which often have Fatal Consequences in Families and Persons. All your other Objections are Doubts rais'd upon meer Suggestions, and may be reasons why you should not Mary yet, but none why you should not Marry at all.

He that sees his Circumstances strait, and that the Charge of a Family are too great for the Prospect of his Ability; Prudence directs him to wait till better Prospects may happen, and till Providence may open the Door for his launching into the World upon easier Terms.

But then comes in the Old Importunate Affair, Nature growing a little Impertinent as in another Place, is always Teizing and Quarrelling, and like a Scolding Wife, will be Gratifi'd or give you no Rest: And what must be done in this Case. Why! Really Gentlemen the Text is plain, *it is better to Marry* &c. ——

And in this Case, we find the Importunity has an Influence Superiour to all the Prudentials mention'd; Want, Sorrow, Multiplication, of Beggars, Impracticableness, as to Subsisting and all the Dictates of Caution and Prudence, are Drown'd with the Clamours of Nature; and the Man is hurried on with a Needs must, for this Mock-Devil Drives.

It is Endless to Enter upon the Multitude of hasty and Ill-proportion'd Matches this Posterior Prompter of Vice hurries People to; this makes Young Ladies of Fortune, Marry Footmen, Coachmen Scoundrels and Rakes; Young Gentlemen, Linen-Drapers, Prentices in *Cornhill*, or elsewhere, Marry Cook-Wenches, Chamber-Maids, Oyster-Whores, or any thing; and some that would be thought to have more Wit, tho' less Honesty, run to Whoring, Wheedle in Fools, to be Vicious, Lye, Bribe, Promise Marriage, and the like, Gratifie the Gust, and then Laugh at them; this brings Madness, Desparation, Ruine of Families, Disgrace, Self-Murthers, Killing of Bastards, &c. and that Goals, Repentance, and the Gallows.

This is that Unseen, and little Understood Principle, the World so much Mistakes and Miscall Love; which if Men would take a more regular way to Cure, they would avoid abundance of the Pageantry of the Sexes, and prevent all those most Ridiculous Antick Figures they make on both sides, in the World; would they use *Phlebotomy* a little, and Cure the *Acrimony of the Blood*, they would Discover the Sympathy between *the Love* and the *Lust*; and as this was suppress'd, that would very much Cool and Decay.

Marry then, Gentlemen, whatever you do, and whoever you take, if the Brain cannot govern the Spirits, if the Head cannot Answer for the Tail, Marry or you are Undone; tho' 'tis ten to one, when these are the Motives, you are also Undone if you do; of which hereafter.

THE following Queſtion, without doubt, is of very great Significatick n in the Matter of Elections; and tho' the preſent Occaſions are over, the Anſwer is ſo plain, and ſo needful, that it cannot be miſplac'd at any time.

Gentlemen of the Scandal Club,

WE *deſire your Opinions, Whether Livery-Men fallen to Decay, receiving Alms of the Company, and put into Almes-houſes by the Court of Aſſiſtants of the Companies to which they belong; and the Beadles of Companies, who have been Livery Men, have a Right to Poll for Members of Parliament?*

Your Servants,

S. L. J. R. W. M.

On Examination of this, we find that Livery-Men of any Company, coming to be Alms Men under the Company, ought by the Cuſtom of the City at leaſt, if not by Expreſs Laws, to lay down the Gown.

The ſame in Caſe of the Officers in any of the Companies, as the Beadles in particular, who we believe, in all Companies, lay down their Gowns at their Admiſſion.

If it were not ſo, it were to make Men-Servants and Maſters at the ſame time; and make them Equal in Dignity, and yet ſubſervient in Office.

But at laſt, we ſuppoſe the Intent and Meaning of the thing is, Whether then they ought to Poll? And the Anſwer is plain; If they lay down the Gown, they lay down the Privilege at the ſame time, and ought not to be Poll'd or any longer to be reckon'd in the Number of the Livery; and if any Man has thus been Poll'd, let it be on which Side it will, it is a Wrong, and ought to be Rectify'd.

ADvertiſements are taken in by *J. Matthews* in *Pilkington-Court* in *Little-Britain*.

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